Notes on Hiberno-Latin Manuscripts in Belgian Libraries

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Reviewed work(s):

Source: *Archivium Hibernicum*, Vol. 3 (1914), pp. 203-209

Published by: [Catholic Historical Society of Ireland](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25485475>

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NOTES ON HIBERNO-LATIN MANUSCRIPTS IN BELGIAN LIBRARIES

WITH the exception of the Royal Library at Brussels, none of the Belgian Libraries have issued complete, systematic, and up-to-date catalogues of their collections of MSS. It is therefore hoped that the following summary notes, made in the course of a visit to Belgium in the summer of 1912, may prove of interest to students of mediæval Hiberno-Latin literature.

BRUGES, BIBLIOTHÈQUE PUBLIQUE DE LA VILLE.

MS. No. 160¹: Large folio; vellum; 201 numbered ff.; saec. XIV ex.; double cols. with 25 to 50 lines to the page; initials illuminated and ornamented in red and blue; a few marginal and interlinear annotations; formerly in the monastery of St. Mary at Doest near Lisseweghe (effaced note on f. 201a, *Thosani dedit*), afterwards in the abbey of Cistercians of St. Mary *de Dunis* at Bruges.

f. 1a: A miniature representing Dionysius the Areopagite, in lilac and blue with gold. *Liber Ierarchiarum Magni Ariopagite Dyonisii. Magnus Ariopagita Dyonisius antiquus pater et doctor uenerabilis postquam a beato Paulo apostolo ab errore paganorum etc., sufficientissime disserens.* Then follows an Index of the fifteen chapters of the *Celestial Hierarchy* of Dionysius.

ff. 2a-4b: *Expliciunt Capitula. Prefacio Anastasii apostolice sedis bibliothecarii ad excellentissimum et Christianissimum regem Karolum* (ed. Floss, ap. Migne, *Patrol. Lat.*, 122, cols. 1025-1030, with no collation of this copy).

ff. 4b-8a: The poems and prose preface prefixed by Johannes Scottus to his translation of the *Celestial Hierarchy* (Floss, *loc. cit.*, cols. 1029-1038; no collation of Bruges MS.).

¹ Poorly described by Laude (*Catalogue méthodique, descriptif et analytique des MSS. de la Bibliothèque Publique de Bruges*, Bruges 1859, pp. 149-150). The MS. formerly bore the numbers 1 and 350.

f. 8a: *Breuis et ualde necessaria declaratio* (ed. from this MS. by Floss, *loc. cit.*, p. vi.).

ff. 9b-171b: The work of Dionysius as translated by Johannes Scottus (ed. Floss, *loc. cit.*, cols. 1037-1062, without collation of this MS.). It breaks off abruptly with the words *ipsa aqua nonne*, in the middle of chapter xiii (ed. col. 1062B), at the foot of fol. 171b. Several folios of the MS. are then lost. The text is in paragraphs in large letters. After each paragraph follow the Commentaries of St. Maximus, Johannes Scottus, Hugo of St. Victor, and Johannes Sarracenus, written in smaller letters. The name of each author is written in red beside his respective comment. The comments of Johannes Scottus were copied from this MS., in which they go only down to the middle of cap. xiii, and edited by Floss (*loc. cit.*, cols. 125-239C).

ff. 172a-201a: Another translation of the *Celestial Hierarchy*. The beginning of the Index of Chapters is missing. The translation commences: *Omne datum bonum, et omne bonum perfectum, desursum est, descendens a patre luminum. Sed et cunctus a patre mote luminis*, etc. It ends: *Rationem sermonis previdentes, et super nos occultum silentio uenerantes. Explicit liber beati Dyonisii episcopi Athenarum ex Ariopagitis de Celesti Ierarchya. In nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti.*

Laus tibi sit, Christe, quoniam liber explicit iste.

Explicit iste liber. Scriptor sit crimine liber. Amen.

f. 201b: blank.

MS. No. 171.¹ Folio; vellum; 244 ff; saec. xiv; "*Liber ecclesie beate Marie de Dunis*." It contains the *Manipulus Florum* of Thomas de Hybernia. [cf. *Studies*, ii, 1913, p. 511.]

MS. No. 388.² Paper; saec. xv; "*Liber ecclesie S. Marie de Dunis*." Contains among other things, *Richardus Ardmacensis, Liber de Privelegiis Mendicantium*. [*Studies*, ii, 512.]

BRUSSELS, BIBLIOTHÈQUE ROYALE.

An excellent catalogue of the large and valuable collection of MSS. preserved in this Library is now in course of publication by Van Den Gheyn.³ Once this work has been completed and

¹ *Laude* (*loc. cit.*, pp. 162-164).

² *Laude* (pp. 327-328).

³ *Catalogue des MSS. de la Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique*, tomes i-ix, Bruxelles, 1901-1909.

furnished with the necessary indexes, it will be a comparatively easy, and most useful, task to prepare a list of all the MSS. relating to Ireland.¹ As is well known, they are neither few nor unimportant.

MS. II. 2568. A volume of *Vitae Sanctorum*² acquired from the Phillipps collection (Nos. 12314 and 12460) in 1900. Formerly it belonged to the Abbey of Stavelot. Vellum; tenth-century; single columns. On fols. 48b-59a occurs the *Vita S. Brigidae* of Cogitosus, with which I have dealt in the *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*.³ It presents a much better text than that of the later MSS. previously collated by me. The Prologue is missing.

f. 48b, without any title: [San]cta itaque Brigida, quam Deus præsciuit ad suam imaginem et prædestinauit, a Christianis nobilissimisque parentibus, de bona ac prudentissima Ectehc prosapia in Scottia orta, patreque Dubtocho et matre Processa genita, etc.

f. 59 a, it ends: Orate pro me præcor ne imputetis me culpabilem, sed ut audatiæ meæ indulgeatis, atque orationum uestrarum pio domino commendetis ut et deus uos pacem ex ore euangelicam sectantibus exaudiat, adiuuante domino nostro Iesu Christo qui uiuit et regnat in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

At f. 53b, l. 15 the MS. reads *Luguid nomine* for the *Lugidus* of the Bollandist editors (cap. 26), and at f. 55b, l. 18 *gronna* for the *grunna* of the edition (cap. 33).

MS. II. 1181. A volume of *Vitae sanctorum*⁴ also from Stavelot. Purchased in 1888 from the Phillipps collection (No. 12461). Vellum; sæc. xi/xii.⁵ Also contains an imperfect copy of the *Vita S. Brigidae* of Cogitosus (ff. 81a-87b). The Prologue is missing, and between ff. 85 and 86 a folio has been torn out. Thus f. 85b ends with the words, *Quæ cum talem* in the middle of cap. 28 according to the edition of the Bollandists, and f. 86a commences, *fortitudinem sanctæ Brigide infirmiolem* etc.,

¹ That given by Bindon (*Proc. R.I. Acad.*, iii, 1847, pp. 477-502) is very incomplete, and now quite antiquated.

² Described by Van Den Gheyn (*loc. cit.*, v., 1905, pp. 305-306).

³ Vol. 30, section C, 1912, pp. 307-326.

⁴ Cf. Esposito (*loc. cit.*, p. 309).

⁵ The Bollandists and Van Den Gheyn say "Sæc. xii."

in the middle of cap. 33. Neither the Bollandists nor Van Den Gheyn, in their descriptions of the MS., have noticed this gap.

f. 81a, in red: *Incipiunt capitula de causa sanctę Brigide*. Then a list of 32 chapters.

f. 81b, in red: *Incipit uita beatissimę Brigide uirginis quę celebratur Kalendis Februarii*. Then, *Sancta itaque Brigida*, etc. There are a few interlinear and marginal additions in a later hand.

f. 87b, it ends: *Orate pro me Cogitoso, nepote culpabili, et audatię meę indulgeatis, atque per orationem uestram pio domino me commendetis exoro, et deus uos pacem euangelicam sectantes exaudiat*.

At f. 81b, col 2, the MS. has the proper names in cap. 3 (ed. Boll.) thus: *Ectech, Scotia, Dubtocho, Brocca*.

At f. 85a, col. 2, l. 25, the reading is *Luguidman nomine* (cap. 26).

NAMUR, BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE LA VILLE.

MS. No. 71. A small folio, paper, volume of 259 numbered folios, written in single columns with 42 lines to the page, in the year 1438. Initials and headings are in red. Here and there a few marginal notes in the same hand as the text. Several folios have been torn out in various parts of the volume, but from the index at the commencement we see that they had been left blank. There is thus no loss to deplore. No catalogue of the Namur MSS. having as yet been published,¹ I give here a complete description of the contents of this volume.

On the recto of the first fly-leaf in the same hand as the rest of the MS., an index of the contents. On the recto of second fly-leaf, in the same hand, *Iste liber pertinet monasterio de Gardineto beate Marie virginis iuxta Walcuriam*.² This same inscription occurs in the top margins of ff. 121a and 146a, and also in the middle of f. 259a. Then follows an index to the fifteen chapters

¹ The Library is said to possess some 270 MSS. (cf. *Catalogue des livres de la Bibliothèque Publique de la Ville de Namur*, Namur 1807, pp. 259-266). A few were summarily mentioned by Bethmann (Pertz, *Archiv*, viii, 1843, pp. 475-477). The hagiographical MSS. were described by Arndt (*Neues Archiv*, ii, 1877, pp. 264-265), and by the Bollandists (*Analecta Bollandiana*, i, 1882, pp. 485-530, 609-632).

² Walcourt (prov. de Namur).

of the first work in the MS. On the verso of the second fly-leaf : *Dyonisii Arriopagite episcopi Athenarum ad Thimoteum episcopum Ephesiorum de Celesti Ierarchia. Epigramma in beatum Dyonisium de Cel. Ier. ; Angelice sapientie* etc. Then follow the 24 verses of Johannes Scottus, *Lumine siderio* etc. (ed. Floss, ap. Migne, *Patrol. Lat.*, 122, cols. 1037-1038).

ff. 101a-102b : *Expositio magistri Hugonis super Dyonisium Arriopagitam de tribus Ierarchiis Celestibus* (ed. Migne, *P.L.*, 175, 923-1154). f. 102b, *Explicit. xv Junii in anno 1438°*.

ff. 103a-104a : *Prefatio Anastasii apostolice sedis bibliothecarii ad excellentissimum Karolum* (ed. Floss, ap. *P.L.*, 122, 1025-1030).

ff. 104b-106b : The 24 verses *Hanc libam sacro* etc., followed by the prose preface of Johannes Scottus to his translation of Dionysius (ed. Floss, *P.L.*, 122, 1029-1036). Folios 107 to 119, which were originally blank, have been torn out:

f. 120b : *De Mistica [Theologia S. Dionysii]*. An index to the five chapters of the work.

ff. 121a-133b : The Pseudo-Dionysian work with a Commentary. Each passage of the text is marked in large red capitals *Textus*, and each of the following commentary similarly *Commentum*. The introduction of the Commentary begins : *In nostris exemplaribus grecis non fuit prescriptum aliquod epygramma in hunc librum de mystica theologia* etc. The translation begins : *Trinitas supersubstantialis et superdea et super bonum que Christianorum* etc. The Commentary : *Mystica theologia est novercissima et non iam per speculum et per ymaginem creaturarum cum deo locutio. Cum videlicet uirum transcendit* etc., f. 133b : *dictorum defectus a perfectis beniuole suppleri. Explicit mistica theologia sancti Dionisii cum commento domini Episcopi Linconiensis*. This Commentary was printed in *Opera Dionysii*, 3 vols. folio, Argentine, 1502-03, vol. i, fols. 264b-271b.

f. 134a : A brief extract from the *Moralia* of St. Gregory (11 lines).

f. 134b : blank. ff. 135a-142b : *Incipit Prologus Anselmi Cantuaririensis [sic!] Archiepiscopi in Proslogion* (ed. Migne, *P.L.*, 158, 223-242). Three blank folios have then been torn out.

ff. 146a-174a : *Incipit Prologus in libro Rathberti de Sanguine et Corpore Christi* (ed. Migne, *P.L.*, 120, 1263-1350).

f. 174a : *Versus [xv] eiusdem. Regis adire sacre qui uis*

sollemnia mense. . . . Accipiens palmam regni virtute beatus (ed. Migne, loc. cit., cols. 1261-1262).

ff. 174b-178a: *Dicta cuiusdam sapientis de Corpore et Sanguine domini Ihesu Christi aduersum Radbertum. Quod corpus et sanguis domini vera sit caro, et verus sanguis. . . . que de uino et pane creauit et conseruauit uerum corpus et sanguinem domini. Et sit finis. Explicit.* (Cf. Migne, P.L., 112, col. 1511n.).

ff. 178b-179b: *Dicta cuiusdam de Corpore et Sanguine domini nostri Iesu Christi filii dei uiui. Intuentes sententiam apostoli qua dicitur quod animalis homo non percipit ea que. . . . mox ut dominus uoluerit et partum quem elegerit tibi satisfactorius erit. Sit finis.* (Cf. Migne, P.L., 112, col. 1510n.).

f. 179b: *Versus [xxx] de Sacramento Altaris. Tollimur e medio fatis urgentibus omnes. . . . Fit cibus ipse caro panis ymago manet.* Then follow six more: *In natale sacro sacre sollemnia misse. . . . Nox aurora dies umbra figura deus.*

ff. 180a-181b: *Incipit Omelia Eusebii de Corpore et Sanguine domini nostri Iesu Christi. Magnitudo celestium. . . . secula seculorum. Amen* (ed. Migne, P.L., 30, cols. 280-284).

f. 182a-182b: *Ex Dyalogo sancti Basilii de Dignitate Sacerdotali. Sacerdotii aspice dignitatem. . . . in honorem illius qui immolatur. Explicit.*

ff. 182b-207a: *Anselmi Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi Cur Deus Homo* (ed. Migne, P.L., 158, 359-432).

f. 207a: [*Versus xxv.*] *Ade peccatum que conueniens aboleret Quid proprium stulto non posse et uelle nocere?* (Cf. Migne, P.L., 171, col. 1406).

ff. 207b-215a: *Incipiunt capitula libri Anselmi de Libertate Arbitrii* (ed. Migne, P.L., 158, 489-506). f. 215b: blank.

f. 216 which was also blank has been torn out.

ff. 217a-234b: *Incipit Epistola Aniani ad Euangelum presbiterum.* [Introduction and 7 Homilies on St. Paul.]

ff. 235a-238a: *Meditatio deuota super antiphonam Salue Regina Misericordie* (ed. Migne, P.L., 149, 583-590).

f. 238b: blank. ff. 239 and 240, blank, have been torn out.

ff. 241a-250b: *Sermo Augustini episcopi aduersus quinque hereses* (ed. Migne, P.L., 42, 1101-1116).

ff. 251a-259a: *Liber beatissimi Augustini contra Felicianum Arrianum hereticum* (ed. Migne, P.Lat., 42, 1157-1172).

f. 259b: Blank.

MS. No. 90. A small quarto parchment volume, written

in single columns with 30 lines to the page, in a hand of the early fifteenth century. Initials in red and blue. 322 numbered pages. The *Manipulus Florum* of Thomas Hibernicus. [See Esposito, *Studies*, ii, 1913, p. 511.]

pp. 1-316: *Quedam excerpta de Manipulo Florum*. A few marginal notes.

pp. 317-322: An index to the 308 chapters of the work.

My cordial thanks are due to M. Adrien Oger for the kindness shown to me during my visit to the Namur Library.

M. ESPOSITO.

Göttingen, *February*, 1914.

ADDENDUM.

Since the above was written, Belgium has been subjected to a ruthless and devastating invasion. Among other irreparable losses we have to deplore that of the Library of the University of Louvain, wantonly fired by vandals on August the 25th. At the time I visited this Library (June, 1912), there was no printed catalogue of the collection of MSS., and, as far as I am aware, none has since been published, but from the manuscript index on slips, kindly placed at my disposal, I was able to ascertain that the Library possessed no MSS. relating to mediæval Irish affairs. As to the fate of the other Belgian and French Libraries, which have had the misfortune to fall into the hands of the invaders, we have as yet (October, 1914) no information.

M. E.